

# Annual Report

UPON THE

Public Health and

Sanitary Administration

OF

The Rural District of

Abergavenny

For the Year 1945

BY

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS, M.B., Ch.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.



Dover & Co. Abergavenny



COUNCIL OFFICES,  
MONK STREET,

ABERGAVENNY,

October, 1946.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES & GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for 1945, dealing with matters affecting the Public Health and Social Welfare of your district during that year.

**I. General Statistics.**

Area ... 62,685 acres.  
Population ... 7,745.

Number of inhabited houses (according to Rate Books on 31st December, 1945) ... 1,997

**II. Social Conditions and Chief Occupations.**

Much of the Rural District is mountainous in character ; and the main occupation is agriculture, including market gardening ; but, as a result of war-time industries, many persons continue to be employed at the Royal Ordnance Factory at Usk ; the Lang Pen Factory at Llanfoist ; or in the Blaenavon Works.

**III. Births and Deaths.**

Total number of Live Births	...	128
Legitimate	...	109
Illegitimate	...	19
Total number of Still Births	...	6
Legitimate	...	6
Illegitimate	...	Nil
Total number of Deaths	...	94
Total number of Infant deaths (under 1 year)	...	7
Legitimate	...	7
Illegitimate	...	Nil
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of population	...	16.5
Still Birth Rate ditto	...	0.77
Death Rate ditto	...	12.1
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	...	54.7

#### IV. Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Age 0-5	5-10	10-15	15-25	Over 25	Total	Treated in Hospit'l
Diphtheria	...	—	—	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	...	1	4	2	2	—	9
Pneumonia	...	—	—	—	1	1	Nil
Ophthalmia Neonatorium	...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Measles	...	18	23	9	—	5	55
Whooping Cough	...	6	5	—	—	—	11
 Total	...	26	32	12	2	6	78
							7

There were no deaths from any of the above diseases.

- Again the most prevalent infectious disease in the area was Measles ; and the epidemic was widespread ; but not of a virulent type. In many cases a doctor was not called in ; so that the number of cases notified represents a proportion only of those that occurred. The same applies to the notification of Whooping Cough.

The case of Diphtheria occurred in a non-immunised boy over school age.

#### V. Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases notified during 1945 :

Pulmonary 7 (5 patients in Mental Hospital)

Non-Pulmonary 3 (one transfer from another area)

Total number of deaths : Pulmonary ... 1.

Non-Pulmonary ... Nil.

(This does not include patients from the Mental Hospital whose residence is in another area).

#### VI. Immunisation Against Diphtheria.

Again schools were re-visited after ascertaining from teachers that there were still non-immunised children therein ; and parents were encouraged to bring children under school age to the school at that time ; or to the Surgery any Tuesday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. A list of the younger children was obtained from District Nurses and Health Visitors ; and parents were sent a letter

emphasising the importance of immunisation and the dangers of Diphtheria and its sequelæ. On the reverse side of this circular was a form to be filled in and returned by any parent wishing a child immunised. The response to this effort was a poor one; and I would like to take this opportunity of asking members of this Council to emphasise, whenever opportunity may arise, by personal contact in their respective districts the importance of this branch of Public Health.

The following statistics show how the campaign progressed during 1945.

			Aged 1-5 yrs.	Aged 5-15 yrs.	Total
Child population Immunised					
	Jan.—June, 1945		26	14	40
”	June—Dec., 1945		50	10	60
Total Child	”	during year	...	76	24
					100

Number of Children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1945.

AGES				AGES				
1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	Total under 5	5-9	10-14	Total 5-15	Total 1-5 yrs
62	59	65	83	269	477	654	1131	1400

Estimated child population mid-1945 :

1—5 yrs. ... 480—giving percentage immunised ... 56.3%  
5—15 yrs. ... 1180 do. do. ... 80.8%

## VII. Government Evacuation Scheme.

Except for the following, all the official evacuees returned to their homes in February, 1945; the majority to the London and South-east coastal areas.

Number still resident in the area in December, 1945 :

Unaccompanied children	...	3
Accompanied children	...	3
Mothers	...	1
Other Adults	...	2

## **VIII. Incidence and Treatment of Scabies.**

The incidence of Scabies lessened throughout the year : and Hatherleigh Sick Bay ceased to be used as a Hospital for treatment as there were not sufficient cases to justify its use for that purpose. Such cases as did occur were treated in their homes.

## **IX. Venereal Disease.**

The presence of troops in the vicinity inevitably kept up the incidence of the venereal diseases ; and in several cases the Army Medical Authority were able to furnish the M.O.H. with particulars of contacts or suspects. The persons concerned were interviewed and sent to Newport Clinic for investigation and, if necessary, treatment.

Similarly the M.O.H. was notified of civilian cases undergoing treatment who had moved into this area and was able to ascertain whether such treatment was being continued at the Clinic.

## **SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.**

### **I. Water Supply.**

The sources of water supply in the district are numerous owing to the variations in altitude and the number of scattered, sparsely populated villages. Springs are the main sources ; and in general, e.g., in the villages of Mardy, Llanvihangel Crucorney, Pandy, Govilon, Llanarth and Llanover, the supply is sufficient and the quality up to standard ; but there are a number of smaller villages and outlying houses where the supply is inadequate or where analysis reports are not always satisfactory.

The main piped supplies owned by the Local Authority are as follows :—

1. **Pwlldu.** Spring in adit. with 2,000 gals. storage tank at source ; supplying 35 premises by means of 6 stand pipes. This is the only supply showing any plumbosolvent action, and as a precaution galvanised iron pipes are used.
2. **Garndyrris.** Spring with standpipe for 10 premises—improved during the year by a 60 yard extension pipe to Garndyrris Cottages.

3. **Govilon.** Series of springs connected to a small tank utilised to drive a ram for the high level portion of the area ; the overflow being utilised for the low level by gravitation. This is piped to 77 premises ; most of which are connected to the main.

The quality of this supply is satisfactory ; but the supply to the high level proved insufficient. To improve this defect an adit. was driven 77 ft. into the hillside at Cwm Ifor. In all 50 premises are supplied on the higher level.

4. **Allws.** Spring utilised to raise water by ram to tanks with standpipes to 17 premises.

5. **Llanfoist.** Supply from Newport Corporation main through 3 & 4 inch pipes for the supply of 85 premises and the Lang Pen Factory ; with an additional 3 standpipes for those premises not connected to the main. The average consumption for private dwellings is about 7,000 gals. per day ; and for the factory 11,000 gals. per day.

6. **Llanelen.** Spring connected to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch pipe supplying 16 premises ; satisfactory in quality, but insufficient in quantity.

7. **Llanvair Kilgeddin.** Spring connected to 1 inch pipe supplying 15 premises by standpipes.

8. **Mardy.** Spring connected to 5, 4 & 3 inch diameter pipes to supply 86 premises ; all of which are connected to the main. During the year a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch branch pipe was taken down to Mardy Park.

9. **Llanvihangel Crucorney.** Overflow from the above spring is utilised to raise 12,000 gals. per day by hydrostats through 3 inch pipes to a 20,000 gallon concrete water tower for the supply of 54 premises ; an additional 4 being connected to the main during the year.

10. **Llanvetherine.** Spring with 1 inch pipe to tank and standpipe supplying 5 premises near main road. Another spring supplies 17 premises in the Caggle Street area by means of 2 standpipes ; some of the dwellings being at too high a level for a gravitational supply.

11. **Llangattock Lingoed.** Spring with small tank and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch pipe supply to a standpipe supplying 12 premises ; the elevation of the source being too low to allow connection into the houses.

12. **Bettws Newydd.** Spring with supply conducted to 10 premises in the village.

In addition the main privately owned piped supplies are as follows :—

1. **Llanover Estate.** Series of springs on the Nant, Llanelen, supply 80 premises over a large area of Llanelen, Llangattock-nigh-Usk, and Llanvair Cross. The quality is satisfactory, but there is some difficulty in maintaining satisfactory pressure for some of the higher areas. Cwm Uchaf spring supplies 9 premises by means of a 1 inch pipe. Llanover Village is supplied through a 2 inch pipe from Coedyfelin Spring and 25,000 gallon storage tank serving 34 premises ; and the " New Inn " spring supplies a further 23 premises in or near the village.

2. **Llanarth Estate.** Spring near Upper House supplies 19 premises through  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch pipe. This supply is satisfactory but insufficient in drought periods. Springs at Court-y-gelly supply the villages of Llanarth and Great Oak ; and a spring near Great House supplies the latter, and raises water by ram to Cefn Coch.

3. **Grosmont Supply.** Spring from which supply is carried by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch pipes to tank at the upper end of village ; from thence by gravitation through 2,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch pipes to 20 premises.

In all, 489 premises are supplied by Local Authority, and 205 from private supplies.

In view of the regulations laid down in the Rural Water Supplies & Sewerage Act of 1944, the Consulting Engineer formulated schemes for improving the water supply and providing sewerage works for Llanfoist, Govilon and Grosmont, and submitted them to the Council for consideration.

During the year 51 Water samples were submitted for bacteriological and chemical analysis.

## II. **Sewerage.**

The only Sewerage Works are those for the villages of Mardy and Llanvihangel Crucorney ; incorporating Sewerage from the Mardy P.O.W. Camp, with Disposal Works near Abergavenny Junction Station. In November Llanfoist Factory requested that their sewage plant

should be taken over by the Council ; but, as the effluent contains chemicals which could not be dealt with in an ordinary sewer without previous special treatment, it was decided by the Council that the Factory must continue to deal with this matter.

At Llanvihangel Crucorney the sewerage from the P.O.W. Camp is dealt with by filter beds and septic tanks below the camp.

The Consulting Engineer submitted plans for Sewerage for Grosmont, Govilon and Llanfoist when dealing with the Water Supplies.

### III. **Housing.**

Owing to restrictions imposed during the war on building and repairs, figures relating to Housing remain much the same as for the previous year.

Number of houses owned by Local Authority in Dec., 1945	...	78
Number of houses in course of erection by Local Authority in Dec., 1945	...	Nil
Number of houses completed (and tenanted) by Dec., 1945	...	8
Number of houses erected by private enterprise in 1945	...	Nil
Number of houses for which sanction had been given but which had not been commenced	...	24
Number of houses inspected for defects during 1945	38	
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action by Local Authority or its officers	...	14
Number of houses in respect of which Statutory Notices were served to carry out repairs	...	4

A Housing Survey was started during the year ; and 104 houses were inspected and particulars thereof recorded.

#### **IV. Milk Supply.**

Examination of dairies and cowsheds was carried out; and three samples of milk submitted for analysis.

#### **V. Meat Inspection.**

Slaughtering of animals is carried out at the Abergavenny Abattoir, therefore no inspection of carcases takes place in the Rural area.

#### **VI. Rodent Control.**

All manholes on the Mardy—Llanvihangel Sewerage Scheme were baited by the Divisional Rodent Inspector and found to be free from infestation.

Four employees of the Council attended a course of lectures and practical demonstrations on rodent control.

#### **VII. Salvage of Waste.**

Waste Paper	...	3 ton 8 cwt.
Rags	...	28 lbs.
Bones	...	14 lbs.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

OLIVE G. GRIFFITHS,

M.O.H.



